



Jeff  
Hickerson



A PERSONAL NOTE: Happy Valentines Day. Don't forget to give your spouse an extra something for putting up with another year of your hobby. Don't forget to send in answers to the questionnaire in last month's issue and write if you get swamped by tape from chain letters.

PROGRAMS AND DATES: Last BUCK ROGERS is 4/4/47. DUFFY'S TAVERN with Jeff Chandler and stranger shows Archie the true meaning of Xmas are the same

DEATHS: Al Goodman, 81, Jan 10. Mr. Goodman was conductor for many radio shows including SHOWBOAT, YOUR HIT PARADE, and FRED ALLEN...Gene Austin, 71. Mr. Austin was a composer of many popular songs and sang on radio including the JOE PENNER SHOW in the middle 30's.

PUBLICATIONS AND GROUPS: Received a letter from Frank Buxton. His and Bill Owan's revision of "Radios Golden Age" to be called "The Big Broadcast" will be published by Viking in several months. It will cost \$12.95, contain 150 rare photographs and be over 500 pages long...Don Maris mentions a publication printing the daily pages of today's adventure strips, including TARZEN, MODESTY BLAISE, JEFF HAWKE, RIP KIRBY, MANDRAKE and many others. Each weeks adventures are printed on one page in full scale size. Send to Menomonee Falls Gazette, N85 W16505 Mary Court, Menomonee Falls, Wisc 53051. Printed weekly the cost in 35¢ single issue, \$4.50 for 12, \$9.00 for 26, \$17.00 for 52... Allen Rockford, 505 Seeley Rd, Syracuse, NY 13224 has about 50 copies left of an AMOS AND ANDY script, Dec 25th, 1935, where Amos and Ruby Taylor get married. Also included is a history of AMOS AND ANDY written in 1935. Just send 50¢ to cover postage and printing...A new nostalgic publication is "Remember When" edited by Larry Herndon, 1830 Highland Dr, Carrollton, Tex 75006. It is 20-30 pages and comes out every 2 months or so. Subscription is 4 issues for \$2.50 or 8 for \$4.50. "Remember When" is a fanzine containing articles and information about old movies and movie stars, cowboy stars, radio programs and personalities, and comics. Many articles and pictures are reprints of 25-35 years ago. Some are original, written for the magazine. Ads are available at reasonable prices...The "Radio Collectors of America from the Boston area, a nonprofit group dedicated to the enjoyment, collection preservation and dissemination of radio's heritage, is embarking on a very worthwhile project. It is called "The Carlton E. Morse Radio Programs for the Blind." The group is presently making arrangements to donate copies of programs to the head librarian for the talking book records in their area, which she will then duplicate and make available to the other 49 regional libraries in the country. The only problem is copyright and broadcast right infringements. If anyone has information as to how these rights may be obtained on a general basis so the blind can have access to radio programs please contact Bernard Feitelberg, 53 Favre St, Mattapan, Mass 02126...Another group is the "American Phonograph Collecting Society," Box 5046, Berkeley, Cal 94705. If you collect phonographs and are interested dues are \$5.00 a year which includes a quarterly newsletter...Al Denson has catalogued all the 16mm sound films made for TV with prices. Some programs go back to the early 50's. If interested in a catalog write Denson Electronics Corp, Box 85, Rockville, Conn 06066.

CATALOGS RECEIVED: George Fowler, 12008 NE, 140th St, Kirkland, Wash 98033. Over 1000, very descriptive, no net/sponsor, wide variety, detailed ratings...Don Pellow, 705 E Chandler, Evansville, Ind 47713. #12277-12987, by reel, no net/spns, many LUM AND ABNER, TV, F ALLEN, EDDIE ARNOLD, SINGING LADY, COUNTRY MUSIC, W HERMAN, JEAN SHEPHERD... ALLEN ROCKFORD, trades and sells, supplement, 50 shows, with net/spns. ..DR. ESTEBAN MORENO, 102 Park St, Santurce, Puerto Rico 00911. 1663 shows, very descriptive, few net/spns, detailed quality, many AFRS Golden Days of Radio, wide variety...RAY NEMAC, 1631 Carol S, Downers



Grove, Ill 60515. Supplem, most spns, all net, many country and western including 140 Red Foley, many from disc. Ray does little new trading...Bob Koch, 2158 No French Rd, Getzville, NY 14068. supplem, 550 shows, no net/spons, many AMOS AND ANDY, BILL STERN, FAVORITE STORY, EXPLORING TOMORROW (edited), GANGBUSTERS, SUPERMAN...HAL BRODSKY, 3541 Victoria Pk Rd #117, Jacksonville, Fla 32216. trades and sells, almost entirely mystery and detective, about 800, no net/spons. ..TERRY BLACK, 112 Archer Ave, Springfield, Ill 62704. 2484-2628, complete description including net/spons, man GUNSMOKE, LUX RADIO THEATER, new redubs of FIBBER MCGEE...DAVE SWIFT, 38 Dartmouth St, Halifax, Mass 02338. revision, 2-track only, several hundred, good description and rating includ. net/spons, many J BENNY, L RANGER, P HARRIS, SUPERMAN, Y T JOHNNY DOLLAR...BOB MCMULLEN, 5646 W 101st S, Oaklawn, Ill 60453. reels 165-216, brief descriptions, few dates, no net/spons, many GUNSMOKE, THEATER 5, ESCAPE, SUSPENSE, P HARRIS.

LOGS AND LISTINGS: on LUX RADIO THEATER, Broken Arrow, 1/22/51, Burt Lancaster replaced James Stewart at the last minute because of illness. Also the program on 11/9/54 was "My Man Godfrey" with Jeff Chandler and Julie Ames. Thanks to John Stanley and Bob Torsion for the above...NEW LOGS: just printed is complete log of ACADEMY AWARD THEATER on from 3/30/46-12/18/46. Information was sent by Fred Dickey. Also just printed is complete log of LIGHTS OUT during the 1942-43 and 1945 and 1946 seasons. An article on LIGHTS OUT will appear later in this issue or next month. The article and above log are by Ray Stanich. Send one SASE for the 2 logs...Also just printed is supplement 3 to my SUSPENSE log, available to purchasers of the original log. This last supplement fills in just about all of the missing shows and a lot more cast. Information for this was sent in by Skip Craig and especially Bob Proctor. Send a SASE for this. All 3 will fit in one envelope. The information in this last supplement will not be in this newsletter

QUIZ: Winners of December quiz were Charles Stumpf and Don Richardson. 4 hours of programs were sent to each of them. Keep sending your answers in to the January Quiz...ANSWERS: December quiz: 1. Answer Man 2. Bobby Benson 3. Dick Tracy 4. Old Timer, Wallace Wimple, Horatio Boomer, Nick Depopolous, Uncle Dennis, others 5. John Perry in JOHNS OTHER WIFE 6. Joe Friday 7. Camel 8. Sweeney and March 9a. Poet and Peasant Overture was theme for Adv of Ace Williams 9b. Jergan's Lotion 10. The Old Trail by Rex Cory...FEBRUARY QUIZ: 1. Who created Hop Harrigan 2. Webley Edwards is featured on what long running program 3. Angel's Serenade was one of the themes of \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Charles Mullen, Jack Grimes, Burt Boyer and Bob Hastings all played \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Joseph Julian and Richard Kollmar played Michael West in \_\_\_\_\_ 6. What character did Drexel Drake create 7. Who played Judge Fitz 8. Jean and Bruce Marshall were the main characters in \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Marty Folier, Ed Blaney, Jack O. Wilson, Glenn Osser, Ted Bell, Warren Sommerville, Fred Foy were all connected with what show. For extra credit what was the job of each one 10. What was the name of the theme of City Service Band of America and who wrote it.

NEWS: Pacifica Program Service, 2217 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley, Cal 94704 sells tapes of WHATEVER BECAME OF.....30min-\$8.50...31-60 min \$10.00. This seems rather high. Virtually all the programs are available from collectors. Mel Shlank, for one, tapes every WHATEVER BECAME OF...off the air from WBAI in New York. I have over 50 interviews with radio people. Whatever Became of Jack Pearl and Great Gildersleeve #1, Hal Peary, do not seem to be available. In fact, were these interviews ever taped?...J David Goldin was the subject of a rather lengthy article in the Jan 8, 1972 issue of the "National Observer." To quote 3 sentences. "One obviously happy lady in Florida has already ordered \$11,000 worth of old-time radio shows. The tapes, usually in-



cluding the commercials, sell for \$10 for an hour's recording. (She hasn't even scratched the surface of what we've got," says Goldin, as he riffles through the clutch of morning mail."...Leonard Bennett, a Connecticut resident, has between 400 and 500 pictures of radio personalities clipped from magazines in the late 20's and early 30's. These are all in good shape, various sizes and done in rotogravure which is very good copy for reproduction. He is willing to sell them. If anyone is interested send me a bid. The highest bid, if agreeable with Mr. Bennett, will receive the pictures...Don Brush, 19 Greenhouse Blvd, West Hartford, Ct 06110, suggests having a radio HALL OF FAME. If anyone has thoughts on the idea, whether it is being done already, how it would be done, let him know...Anyone watch "The Screaming Woman" by Ray Bradbury on Jan 30th? Doesn't compare to the SUSPENSE version now does it.

PERSONALITIES: Notes on Jack Benny from Charles Stumpf...During his many years of broadcasting Benny missed very few shows. One occasion was the radio broadcast of Jan 18, 1942. He and his wife Mary, and orchestra leader Phil Harris did not appear on the show. This was two days after Carole Lombard was killed in an air crash. She had just completed a film with Benny, "To Have and Have Not" and was scheduled to appear on the radio show the following week...Because of salary dispute with the sponsor, Don Bestor and his orchestra and vocalist Frank Parker left the Benny show in 1935. They were replaced by Johnny Green and his boys, and singer Michael Bartlett.

THE TAPE DECK: Joseph Smith tells us of a small Dolby unit put out by TEAC for \$50 which takes out 90% of tape hiss...Hal Brodsky suggests that if you are in the Florida area to contact Dick Vaughn, Box 15111, Sarasota, Fla 33578 for Capitol tape. They are \$1.00 per 1200 foot reel in 156 reel lots. Dick also says he can get computerized mylar tape slit to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch and boxed in white boxes, first line high quality at 45¢ a reel...Just a reminder to contact Mel Shlank, 553 Howelton Rd, Orange, Ct 06477 for blank tape of all brands, including Capitol at very reasonable prices.

#### PACKAGING AND MAILING

When you finish dubbing and checking a reel, attach scotch tape or the gummed sticker to the tape end so it won't become unraveled and put it in the tape container...Enclose your program list with your name on it and scotch tape the tape container closed. Write or stamp your name and address on the tape container also in case container gets separated from the packaging...Use a cardboard box, jiffy (book) bag, a manila envelope, or wrapping paper to put the tape container in. Different traders have had varying results with packaging. Tape boxes appear the best, then jiffy bags, finally manila envelopes or brown paper. In any case it should be sturdily and snugly wrapped with packaging tape and string if necessary...If it is unclear where to open the package write "to open" in the right place so the package can be reused. On the front put the destination address clearly, return address, 4th class-sound recording, and correct postage (14¢ for first pound, 7¢ for each additional pound). If you want speedier delivery add extra postage for special handling (25¢ for first 2 tapes)...If sending to Canada or overseas check with the post office on correct postage. Special 4th class rates don't apply to foreign mail. Make sure a customs sticker is attached. On it put "tape on loan, no commercial value" and a minimum price of \$1.00. Our Canadian friends must pay import fees. I might add that if our Canadian friends send money through the mail that it be a check, money order, or American money-not Canadian money...Bob Proctor adds the following: FPO and APO mailing rates are the same as domestic rates. Extreme care should be taken in packaging anything for mailing, because if there is any way to break

☐ IF THE BOX IS CHECKED, \$3.50 IS DUE FOR ANOTHER YEAR.



something a "volunteered" working party will find a way to do it. In cases of individual reels, I'd recommend sending reels using a plastic case, such as the one sold by Radio Shack. To be doubly safe, a cardboard wrapper and twine to hold it all together. 4th class rate is fine for packages, but double the time on sending anything..it takes up to 2 months to receive a package from the States this way. The only guaranteed way to ensure a tape will receive space-available on a mail plane is to send it airmail, which runs about \$1.20 a reel.. prohibitive to say the very least.

CONCERNED TRADERS: Collectors have sent me names of people they have had problems with or haven't responded with a trade or note. After writing them myself to try to straighten out any problem, the following have not been heard from in over a month: Chet Sherksnas, Robert Vosburgh, Tom Cole, Nostalgia in Miami Florida. If anybody has information about these traders please let me know. Also if you ask me to write to a trader for you, PLEASE let me know if he responds to you. Does anyone know whether Mike Edwards is still trading?

NETWORK LOG: More itmes: ACADEMY AWARD THEATER; first show 3/30/46.. .AMOS AND ANDY; first show for Pepsodent, 8/19/29...ARMSTRONG OF THE SBL 9/5/50-6/28/51...AIR ADVENTURES OF JIMMIE ALLEN Also 10/1/34-9/38 WOR, then WJZ 4 times a week...ARCH OBCLERS PLAYS; last show 10/11/46...AUTHOR, AUTHOR: first show 4/7/39...BUCK ROGERS: also 1939, 3 times a week//last show 4/4/47...CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT: 9/30/40-12/15/49... CHANDU: also 3/32-33 Wor, 5 times...DANGEROUS ASSIGNMENT: for 1950-51 started on Mon; then Wed, Then Sat in fall of 51...FAMILY SKELETON: 6/53-3/54, CBS, 5 times...FLASH GORDON: 11/4/35-2/6/36, Sus, Mut, 15m, 5 times...LIGHTS OUT; See special log...MURDER CLINIC: first show, 3/2/43...RED RYDER: also 5/42-10/42, WOR, 3 times...TARZAN: also 1/33-9/33, Mut...TOM MIX: 9/25/33-6/23/50, 3 times...SNOW VILLAGE SKETCHES: according to P Fennelly it was on from 1928-1947 under different names. It started as Soconyland Sketches...THEATER GUILD: when sponsored by U S Steel 9/9/45-6/7/53.

ESCAPE LOG: 9/12/48 appears to "The Haunted Man."

OTHER LISTINGS AND LOGS: Just completed is a complete relisting of the DIMENSION X and X-1 in my collection. Where the same title was in both series I usually have just one of the series. With the recent acquisition of "The Last Objective," I now have all the titles. Please send SASE. STILL HAVE COPIES OF THE FOLLOWING: Network Log, \$3.75; Suspense log, \$2.00, now virtually complete; Lux Radio Theater Log, \$1.00 ...Escape and CBS Radio Workshop logs, SASE; Lights Out and Academy Award Theater (mentioned earlier), SASE. Also I still have relistings from my collection of Jack Benny, Escape, CBS Radio Workshop (SASE).

HERE AND THERE: Old Friends: James O'Neal just returned from Arkansas where among other things had a lengthy talk with George Jennings. He admits he doesn't answer too much correspondence and due to various reasons is not publishing "Epilog." George's new address is Box M, Bryant, Ark 72022. He has never written to me either so don't feel too bad...Walt Hart, 9015 N 10th St, Phoenix, Ariz 85020 would like information about or a tape of an annual Xmas serial called CUDDLES AND TUCKY. It was on around Xmas in the 40's in the Kansas area...Just heard from Don Brush that WTIC is willing to sponsor a Radio Hall of fame. Send all ideas and opinions to Don. Also Don is interested in selling his collection of about 1000 hours, 225 reels, 1-track for \$2000. This would be for a new collector who wants a ready made collection at a relatively low cost...Robert Lozier, 318 E Houston St, Monroe, NC 28110 is looking for information about UNCLE JOE'S CURIO SHOP. Does anyone have the date for the one about a jewel box. Did the show start in 1928?...Bob Erschen (new address), Box 1061, Hooker, Okla 73945 is looking for complete serial stories of SUPERMAN and TOM MIX. Also



Bob knows of a station in Dubuque, Iowa that has many discs but is unwilling to have anyone have access to them for dubbing. It was an NBC and Mutual affiliate. If anyone is an expert in public relations and can help Bob talk the station into allowing the discs to be dubbed, please contact him... Miller Hahn would like anyone he owes a tape to to get in touch with... John S. anley, 1082 Grand Teton Dr, Pacifica, Cal 94044 is still looking for THEATER 5, SUSPENSE, ESCAPE, SEALED BOOK FIBBER MCGEE AND MOLLY, and QUIET PLEASE... Jack Pfeifer, 19 Lindis Farne Ave, Westmont, NJ 08108 is on the lookout for Max Morath's TV series on the music from the turn of the century... Carl Erickson would like all non-tape material to be mailed to 131 Manor Rd, Staten Island, NY 10310 until March 15th... Ray Nemeec, is looking for programs or music by Bob and Jim Raines, Blue Grass Roy, and Red Belcher... Ed Peck 1033 Gypsum, Salina, Kan 67401 is still looking for copies of TALES OF TOMORROW... Len Lawson, 1206 Notre Dame Ct, Livermore, Cal 94550 is looking for a new bunch of DAMON RUNYAN THEATER that someone apparently has turned up.

New Friends: Harold Cox, 552 Plumas Ave, Onoville, Cal 95965... Albert Getz, 128 Gordon Rd, Schenectady, NY 12306... John Gatto, 134 W 88th St, New York City, NY 10024... Arthur Lorfink, 272 4th St, Palisades, NJ 07650... Paul Palmer, 615 So Wanda Dr, Kingsville, Tex 78363... JO2 Bob Proctor, COMNAVFORJAPAN PAO, FPO Seattle, Wash 98762. Bob gave me valuable help on SUSPENSE dates. He is a naval journalist who is trying to find any information on SUSPENSE he can. He would like any photographs if possible. These will be returned if you wish. More about Bob later... Dudley Sherrill, 2006 Sloat Blvd, San Francisco, Cal 94116... Raymond Swantek, 7149 Edward Rd, Belleville, Mich 48111. Ray is very interested in DIMENSION X and X-1. He also has a collection of shows presented locally called KALEIDOSCOPE. These cover highlights of personalities. Some include Billie Holiday, Charles Laughton, Milton Ager, Ray Henderson, Mickey Mouse bands... John Truber, 448-21 A NE, Calgary #64, Alberta, Canada... Paul Urbahns, 234-82-1883, HQS Det, USAG, Box 11, Ft Amador, Canal Zone. Paul's great interest is the GREEN HORNET and an article he submitted will be in this or the following issue. He suggests that each collector who has a special interest write in depth about the program or star and have it printed in one of the fan magazines. I can print such articles if they are not too long... Clint White, Box 1126, Lynnwood, Wash 98036... Bob Willey, Advertising Productions, Tower Bldg, Penthouse, Seattle, Wash 98101.

NEW PROGRAMS: Several new COLUMBIA WORKSHOP, redubs of many of the FIBBER MCGEE, 89 episodes of Jack Armstrong, 1040-41, almost a complete story, THE MYSTERY MAN with Jay Jostyn. Some of the BIG collectors undoubtedly have copies of many others that aren't in circulation yet. I will let you know when they are ready for general trade. Hopefully a copy of GASOLINE ALLEY will be available soon... Don Koehne-mann has the complete '78 series of "Ballad for Americans" starring Paul Robeson. A SASE will bring you a 2-page description of the album and related information. Write to Don, 811 Bristol Ave, Westchester, Ill 60153.

RADIO IS ALIVE AND WELL: From Gerg Jackson: Universal is making a pilot for a new TV series based on the radio show NICK CARTER. It will be shown as an ABC Movie of the Weekend and star Robert Conrad, Shelley Winters, Broderick Crawford, Dean Stockwell, Neville Brand, Pat O'Brien, Pernell Roberts... Arch Oboler, according to a New York Times article wants to make it clear that he had nothing to do with the LIGHTS OUT pilot that was shown on NBC on Jan 15... From Dom Patrissi: WHCN-FM in Hartford, Ct (105.9) is broadcasting LONE RANGER Sundays at 10:30 PM... From Cort Parent: The Paul Harvey News on ABC just got renewed for the 19th consecutive year. Paul Harvey goes out on ABC's American Entertainment Network. It's broadcast on WMCA at



8:45 Am and 1 PM Mon-Fri and 1Pm Sat...Hawaii Calls, a program conducted by Webley Edwards from the beach of Waikiki, is still going strong after 36 years. In the New York area it is heard on WTHE (1520) in Mineola, Long Island from 4-5Pm each Saturday...The NBC network is making an effort to bring back radio drama with a series of 90-minute specials. Robert Wogan, vice president of programs, envisions 4 to 6 science fiction drama shows a year under the title of Concept 90. Ray Bradbury would be the host and also adapt some of his works for the radio series. Norman Corwin is lined up as producer of the series. Sponsorship is the key as to whether the science fiction dramas will be presented by NBC...The LET'S PRETEND over WRVR-FM, New York are not the original. A theater group in New York did 50 LET'S PRETEND recently, keeping as close to the original format as possible. Mel Shlank sponsored 2 of these broadcasts. The programs are available in record form and are being sold by Mel.

STATIONS OF THE MONTH: KFI, Los Angeles. KFI, an NBC outlet is celebrating its 50th year of broadcasting. It is playing the 15 minute LUM AND ABNER 5 days a week at 7:30. It is planning many specials this year including a 12 hour special on April 16th when they will devote the time to playing excerpts from old radio shows. Also in the future are interviews with many past radio stars including J Benny, G Burns, B Hope, B Crosby, E Bergen, Hal Peary and more... WSEN-FM, Baldwinsville, New York (92.1). It has 5 nights a week of old radio at 7:00 PM. Mon: Lone Ranger. Tues: Gangbusters. Wed: Green Hornet. Thurs and Fri: Allen Rockford's "Sounds of Yesteryear" featuring comedy, variety and music excerpts from early radio.

#### COLLECTORS OF THE MONTH

WALTER HART. Walter is 37, single, and a science teacher with close to 100 reels of programs. He is especially interested in ILAM, I LOVE ADVENTURE, SUPERMAN, and DIMENSION X. Other hobbies are or have been astronomy, collecting insects, rocks and minerals, old records, and electronics.

STEVE HOFER, 923 S 17th St, Kingsville, Tex 78363. Steve is 31, has 2 children, is a speech instructor at Texas A & I, and is station manager for KTAI-FM, 91.9. Steve has about 600 shows and is currently working on his PH.D. Steve also is working on a \$50,000 instructional TV set-up, collects coins and stamps, and does embedding in plastic.

MILLER HAHN, 912½ E Washington St, New Castle, Penn 16101. Miller is 39, single, a musician, now teaching music in Pleasant Hills, Penn. He is a science fiction and ESP fan, having over 5000 books on the subjects. Miller has 750 record albums, 250 music tapes, and 3000 radio programs and TV soundtracks, including 650 TV signatures. His soundtracks include 50 STAR TREKS, 120 TWILIGHT ZONES, 50 ONE STEP BEYOND, 35 SCIENCE FICTION THEATER, 15 OUTER LIMIT. Also in Miller's collection are 75 movie soundtracks.

PAUL PALMER, 615 So Wanda Dr, Kingsville, Tex 78363. Paul is 36, and a professor of History at Texas A & I. He has about 900 shows. Some of his shows came to Paul from his brother in England.

BOB PROCTOR: Bob is 23, single, from Clinton, Michigan and has about 1200 shows. Roughly three-fourths come directly from AFRS discs. Some complete AFRS reels in excellent condition are RICHARD DIAMOND, CBS RADIO WORKSHOP, CRIME CLASSICS, DR. SIXGUN, DRAGNET, INNER SANC\* TUM, ROY ROGERS (6) and GENE AUTREY (6), MICHAEL SHAYNE, SUSPENSE, 21st PRECINCT, SIX SHOOTER, MATTHEW BLADE, LIFE OF RILEY, many others. There are 12 of each program to the reel. Bob is particularly interested in SUSPENSE, JOHNNY DOLLAR (Bob Bailey), and RICHARD DIAMOND. Bob is also a good cartoonist.



JOHN TRUBER: John is 25, single, and is also interested in treasure hunting and sports. John has about 1000 shows and has been collecting for about a year and a half.

PORTRAIT OF A COLLECTOR by Mark Staples (slightly edited)

You can almost hear the crackle of old-time radio in the voice of Joe Hehn when he talks about the collection he has compiled to preserve it. Radio infested the blood of the 39-year old Allentown, Pa., resident when he listened to his first JACK ARMSTRONG adventure in 1936. In the following years TOM MIX, BUCK ROGERS, DON WINSLOW, CAPT. MIDNIGHT, THE LONE RANGER and ORPHAN ANNIE--to name a few--were among his adventure heroes as well...Anxious to preserve these memories he began to save the dialog of his favorite shows in note form. But it was Carlton E. Morse's immortal I LOVE A MYSTERY, first heard by Joe in October, 1939, that hooked him on radio for good. From that time on, through 1949, ILAM as well as a half dozen juvenile adventure serials daily found their way into his notebook in the form of a shorthand system he devised. Sleep came each night only after he attempted to define the adventure writer's next move..."It was easy to pick out what was trite, unimaginative, predictable and even distasteful in these plots," he remembers. "But real values did exist. Skillful writing, superior plots, clever dialog, incredible sound effects, educational truths, moral ideals and even good health habits were there," he says...During those years the radio characters became good friends who could stir Joe's imagination and interest more than any book could.

The premiums became a most important element of the shows' plots and a concrete particle of memorabilia. The mailbox was never close enough to school when class was dismissed each day. "Before 1945, these premiums were sturdily constructed and ingeniously designed," Joe says, noting they generally lived up to the rave radio promotions that General Mills, Ralston Purina, Ovaltine and other such firms gave to them. The firms didn't want to lose a listener or user of their products by not fulfilling their fantasies...Joe, who has discussed his avocation on television, scores of radio programs and before numerous civic groups says there were at least 10,000 radio premium giveaways offered on these children's serials from 1930-55. One of the most phenomenal promotions was a Lone Ranger atomic bomb ring--over 3 million children sent in for this within a 3-month period in 1945. The 1930's produced results that were incredible even by today's standards, for in the early 30's within a one-month period over 1 million children sent in millions of Beech-nut gum wrappers for the famous magic tricks of Chandu the Magician. Other outstanding radio premiums included the Tom Mix secret telephone, telegraph and telescope from Ralston Purina; the Capt. Midnight Mystic Sun God ring from Ovaltine; The Lone Ranger Frontier Town from General Mills; the Shadow Blue Coal ring; the Orphan Annie Mystic Eye Detective ring; and the Jack Armstrong Game--Adventures with the Dragon Talisman--from General Mills.

Now a public relations executive for Ritter-Berger Inc., Allentown, Penn., Joe figures he heard at least 100 different juvenile adventure serials during his boyhood years and says another 200-300 were produced in other parts of the country out of range of his radio receiver...Adult programs of all kinds captured his interest as he grew older. The juvenile adventure serials, he recalls, would run from 4:30 to 6 o'clock in the afternoon. They would be followed by other family favorites during the evening. Vic and Sade written by Paul Rhymer is considered by Joe to have been the finest radio program of its day with ILAM a close second.

Once out of high school, Joe determined to take up a teaching car-



eer. So he packed all his scripts--about 15,000--over 1000 premiums, plus clippings, photos and other memorabilia into a dozen or more large cartons at the home of his parents and left them in the attic while heading for Notre Dame University. He knew then, with even greater conviction, that he had something valuable. People were abandoning radio for the entertainment medium of television. He was to return in 1958--8 years later--to a nightmare. Everything was gone and there was no explanation. Joe, badly shaken, abandoned temporarily the avocation of his younger days.

But several years later, a Lone Ranger gun ring turned up by his mother rekindled his ambition. That premium became the starting block for the ambitious and varied collection Joe has garnered today. The walls of his third floor apartment at 422 N 9th St., Allentown, are lined with taped off innumerable old programs. Countless premiums are carefully placed in collection boxes wherever there is room. A dozen recorders add to his sound library when he can locate original discs or master tapes.

In all, Joe has well over 14,000 radio programs in outstanding fidelity--all the great comedies, sports, music and variety shows, news, and history programs, plus adventures, westerns, serials and soap operas. Over 1000 premiums add visual memory to these priceless sounds. And this fantastic library keeps growing and growing...To re-establish his collection in the years following 1963, he wrote an estimated 10,000 letters, visited oldtime stars of radio for interviews, and figures he has spent 25,000 hours tracking down and exchanging any information that would help. "Radio societies, sound engineers, actors, writers, directors, producers, collectors and radio stations all have contributed their share to me," he says.

During his search he has made numerous friends. Marty Halperin, archivist for the Pacific Pioneer Broadcasters and William S Hedges, a veteran of more than 50 years in broadcasting and director of the Broadcast Pioneers History Project are just two. Joe's made recordings from a number of radio's master discs of the old series and shows when they can be found. Many, he says, have been lost. Others were prerecorded in their day then sold in packages to local stations, where they now occasionally turn up. But many stations, in expanding or rebuilding, felt it was impractical to keep the space-consuming discs and discarded them. It is Joe's constant hope that searches in basements and attics by his acquaintances and fellow collectors will enable him to expand his collection.

"I feel certain many people have the kinds of premiums and memorabilia I am seeking for my collection. They just don't know that it is valuable to a collector such as myself. I am hoping that people will contact me about some of the premiums and recordings they may have saved over the years."

The road has been long, difficult and painful. Each success in Joe's research has helped erase the memory of that 1958 nightmare--when so many items he will never be able to replace could not be found. That nightmare is an obstacle Joe must conquer--the same way heroes of the 30's and 40's defeated their adversaries.

LIGHTS OUT REVISITED or Down but never Out; by Ray S. Janich

The average American has always preferred comedy and musicals to drama. During the depression years of the 30's little original radio drama was presented. In that era most dramatists were oriented to the stage or printed word, and they were content to have specialists adapt their works to the film and radio media. When radio drama was offered, it was usually oriented around the crime and violence theme (Detective, western, adventure, horror). This was "escapism" drama, and during the depression years (and later the way) this was the type of drama Americans preferred...One regular dramatic series that was



broadcast in this period was the 30 minute horror-fantasy program LIGHT OUT. In relative terms, it had a long life; spanning a 12-year period--from 1934-46...The original series originated out of Chicago and was written by the prodigious and pioneering Wyllis B Cooper. After the first season it went coast-to-coast over the NBC (Red) network.

When after a few years, Mr. Cooper stepped down, the task of writing the weekly drama was offered to a young and talented author--Arch Oboler, who had until then written primarily short (5-15 min) radio "playlets." At that time Oboler felt his efforts were being stifled by the network censors. Since LIGHTS OUT was aired around midnight, most of the nation (sponsors and censors included) were fast asleep. This relative freedom from censorship was a deciding factor in his accepting the task. He was to write over 100 of the plays before the series expired in 1939. In a sense this show was to serve as his apprenticeship in writing dramatic radio programs...His first effort was entitled "Burial Services" which concerned the burial of a paralyzed girl who was still alive. It caused a furor. Oboler was never again to write a story with such a personal theme which could effect a vast audience...It was during his tenure as author that Hollywood stars such as Peter Lorre and Boris Karloff came to Chicago to appear on the program. Karloff did 4 shows in the Spring of 1938, including the famous "Cat Wife."

Many of Oboler's plays had a "message" camouflaged in a fantasy/horror trapping. A typical example is "Across the Time Gap" (also known as "And Adam Begot"). It ostensibly concerned 3 travelers who crash their auto while touring in France and are thrown back into time to encounter a Neanderthal Man. Actually, it was Oboler's oblique approach to alerting the public that tyranny could only be dealt with by force of arms, not appeasement...The rise of Nazi tyranny in Europe in the 30's affected Oboler strongly. He decided to concentrate his efforts on "relevant" themes, rather than "escapism" drama, and so LIGHTS OUT ceased at the end of the 1939 season.

By the time WW2 came along Oboler's finances became depleted because he had given his time and talents generously to non-profit wartime shows. He was forced to go "commercial" again, and what better way than "escapism?" So LIGHTS OUT was resurrected for the first time in 1942 over the CBS network under the sponsorship of Sterling Drugs...Since he had his hands full with many other wartime radio shows, Oboler had little choice but to use (almost exclusively) repeat scripts from the earlier series. Due to its prime time slot (8 PM EWT), it now reached a vast audience of millions. It immediately became popular, but despite its popularity Oboler wanted to concentrate on the war effort. Once he reached fiscal solvency again, he arranged to extricate himself from the series once and for all. He wrote and appeared as himself in the show "The author and the Thing" and finished off the series for good. Or so he thought.

NBC then broadcast two more short LIGHTS OUT series as summer replacement shows in 1945 and 1946. That was to be its final network radio appearance. Yet, it was not to die completely...During 1949-52 the series was once again exhumed and this time transformed into a TV series by NBC. Although Oboler declined to write for this series, Wyllis Cooper did write 2 scripts called "Pit of the Dead" which was telecast on June 11, 1951 and "Deadman's Coat" telecast May 12, 1951. Oboler's "And Adam Begot" was adapted by someone else and telecast on July 2, 1951. The series never achieved the popularity of the radio series. Visual horror just couldn't compete, it seems, with the imagination of the mind that radio required of its audience...Again LIGHTS OUT submerged; this time for another decade before reappearing again in the early 60's on a single (Capitol) LP



record entitled "Drop Dead." It contained 7 excerpted shows from the original 30's series with Oboler narrating. The shows were Chicken Heart/Laughing Man/I'm Hungry with P Lorre/The Posse/Taking Papa Home/The Dark/An Afternoon at the Dentists with H Peary....Then in 1964 on the wave of the first nostalgic radio resurgence, Oboler syndicated (NANA Radio Productions) a series known as "Arch Oboler Plays." These were dubs of the original transcriptions done in the early 40's of his original "Arch Oboler's Plays" and several of the 1942-43 LIGHTS OUT programs...The latest and possibly last radio appearance of LIGHTS OUT was in 1970/71 when Oboler syndicated yet another series known as THE DEVIL AND MR O. All of these programs were dubs from the 1942-43 LIGHTS OUT transcriptions...A possible TV series was kicked off with a pilot show on Jan 15, 1972 (NBC) entitled "When Widows Weep." Joan Hackett starred.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance of my sister Rose and the staff of the Program Analysis Dept of NBC for their generous help in assembling the titles and dates for this article.

NOTE: A complete log of the LIGHTS OUT television series is available from Ray Stanich, 173 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Please send SASE. As mentioned before the radio log is available from me.

RED BELCHER: contributed by Ray Nemec

Rad Belcher started on radio with Paul Grove and formed a duo known as Rad and Paul. They started on WDM later worked at WMBD and then went to Chicago's WJJD, where they were featured on the station's BREAKFAST FROLIC. They also appeared on WIND as Red and Paul. Red was killed in auto accident while a member of the WWVA Jamboree gang. By those who knew him, he was considered a very fine entertainer. His partner of earlier radio days, Paul Grove, now farms near West Liberty, Ill. They started in radio around 1938 and Paul was still singing on the air until a few years ago.

THE GREEN HORNET: contributed by Paul Urbahns.

He hunts the biggest of all game---public enemies even the G-Men can't reach. With his faithful Japanese valet, Kato, Britt Reid, daring young publisher, risks his life that criminals and racketeers within the law may feel its seight, by the sting of THE GREEN HORNET.

Thus begins one of the most exciting programs ever to hit the air, which has become a legend in its own time. Charles W. Trendle's famous character has appeared on radio, in the movies, comicbooks, novels, and on television. Trendle's first radio success was the LONE RANGER. After the Ranger's success, he wanted to adopt the "masked radio of the plains" formula to modern day times. Attempting to demonstrate the then current evildoers in the cities, Bank robbers, arsonists, racketeers, all were dealt with on the program.

It all started back in 1936 when the radio series was first broadcast. First, I think that I should eliminate a rumor that the show was named GREEN HORNET because Green Hornets are the angriest and most liable to sting (from Jim Harmon's book-Great Radio Heroes). This is false. Al Hodge who played the part of Britt Reid in the beginning and through most of the episodes, stated on Richard Lamparski's program, WHATEVER BECAME OF...that they could not copyright the name "The Hornet" without an adjective. Therefore, they chose green. Actually, who ever heard of a pink hornet? It could have been, though.

The radio series appeared on several different networks but originated and was always produced by Trendle in Detroit at the studios of WXYZ. The main characters of the series were: BRITT REID, a handsome young newspaper publisher who at night becomes the famed and dan-



gerous Green Hornet. Although Britt was supposedly a playboy, there is never a scene in the series of him either in a bar or on a night out. ...KATA, Britt's driver and houseboy, originally Japanese until WW2 when he became Philippine...LENORE CASE, always Britt Reid's secretary and girl friend. She always had a hunch that Britt was the Green Hornet but didn't know until one day when Britt takes her into his confidence...MICHAEL AXFORD, originally hired by Britt's father as a police reporter after his useful years at the police dept. were over. Britt keeps Mike on the staff because he is an old family friend and partially for laughs. One of the striking characteristics of the production of the series is that all music is selections from the classical repertoire. The reason is one of finance; no royalties...Its influence spread in many ways: 1. fast municipal trouble shooting cars in one large city are called G Hornets. 2. A southern railroad named a train the G Hornet. 3. One of the Navy's deadliest torpedo boats was named the G Hornet. 4. The sales of a milk company in Detroit almost tripled after one year of sponsoring the Green Hornet.

To translate the story of the Green Hornet into high-speed action, a team of 26 people has been assembled. Actors and actresses, writers, sound technicians, every one tops in his field. These 26 artists spend days in planning, writing and producing each program, all with expert direction. The radio series went off the network in 1953. That's about the time networks cancelled most shows and started to concentrate on television. The original tapes have been saved by its creator and are in syndication over many stations this very day. So the GREEN HORNET LIVES ON.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Paul Urbahns was formerly a radio announcer with WKEE, WSAV, WGNT, and WMUL in the Huntington, W Va. area. Paul is married and his wife, Amy Jo, shares his interest in old radio. As of this writing he is serving in the US Army and stationed in Panama. A long time fan of the Green Hornet, Paul has corresponded several times with the creator, George W Trendle. His tape collection includes over 50 GREEN HORNET programs.

"Radio Horror; For Children Only," by Worthing Gibson; American Mercury July, 1938; (courtesy of Evan MacBride)

Mrs. Gibson pointed out that youngsters were becoming neurotic impressionables from listening to the Children's Radio Hour and urged the parents to do something about it. She stated that the adult knows the difference between truth and fiction but the child may not...Mrs. Gibson concluded her article by citing a case of mental disorder where a young boy had heard a program involving a corpse, 2 ghosts, a haunted castle, and an ogre-like monster with one flaming eye. Her suggestion for this vice was to throw the radio out of the window. (How about turning it off-ed)

RATINGS OF SELECTED PROGRAMS from Child Study Magazine, April, 1933. (courtesy of E MacBride)

Those programs rated at least good by teachers and parents are: EDDIE CANTOR, GREAT MOMENTS IN HISTORY, THE LONE WOLF TRIBE, TRUE ANIMAL STORIES, TODAYS NEWS, SPORTS-FORD FRICK, HOWARD THURSTON, ROSES AND DRUMS. Rated poor by both parties include: CHANDU, THE SHADOW, MARX BROS, LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE, MYRT AND MARGE, DETECTIVES BLACK AND BLUE, SKIPPY. (Well, whoever believed in ratings anyway-ed)

BALLAD FOR AMERICANS (courtesy of Don Koehnemann)

On November 5th, 1939, BALLAD FOR AMERICANS had its first stirring performance over the PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS program. Paul Robeson's performance of the work stirred the studio audience as well as untold thousands of listeners into applause rarely equaled. In its November



20th issue Time reported: "In the studio, an audience of 600 stamped, shouted, braved for 2 minutes while the show was still on the air and for 15 minutes later. In the next half hour 150 telephone calls managed to get through CBS's jammed Manhattan switchboard. The Hollywood switchboard was jammed for 2 hours. In the next few days bales of letters demanded words, music, recordings, another time at bat for BALLAD FOR AMERICANS." A second performance on the air was made. Arrangements were made to have the great Negro bass, Paul Robeson, record the Ballad for Victor with the People's Chorus.

LAST MINUTE NEWS AND TIDBITS: WTIC's Golden Age of Radio program will next be on Feb 23, March 22, April 24 with Ed Corcoran and Dick Bertel and special guests. Time is 9:05 to 10...WMCA in New York on Mar 18 in the afternoon will have several hours devoted to old radio with interviews and excerpts from the collection of Adam Richter... NEW PROGRAM received: Ziegfeld Follies of the Air, 1936 with F Brice... Terry Black i-listing many new Shadows, most with Bret Morrison and dated...Carl Erickson sends the following excerpt from VIC AND BADE, Jan 1937: "One more crack like that and I'll bomb you, I'll positively atomic bomb you." Could this be accurate?...CBC stands for Canadian Broadcasting CORPORATION not company...MORE RELISTINGS: With DIMENSION X and X-1 are relisted MYSTERIOUS TRAVELER (27) and INNER SANCTUM (44). The main reason I am relisting some of my series is because I really don't have a catalog. Many of my early supplements are all gone as some new collectors have found out...HOWARD BARLOW died recently at the age of 79. Howard Barlow was usually known as "The Voice of Firestone" whose orchestra he directed for many years...A new catalog/magazine is put out by National Recordings (Virgil James), Box 8007, Union City, NJ 07087. Virgil sells programs but combines his catalog with many pictures. The first 2 are out with a portion of his collection. \$1.00 will get them to you, refundable with a purchase. Virgil's next 2 will feature articles about the Lone Ranger and the Shadow. He would appreciate any material, pictures, radio magazines that you can send...DEATHS: Rev. Alden Lee Hill, 85, "marrying person" of BRIDE AND GROOM in the 1940's...Ralph Epperson and Dan Cameron, the owners of a new daytime radio station in Portsmouth, Va are gambling \$300,000 and more on the hunch that nostalgia will be a winning format in modern radio. Music of the 1920's - 1940's, and reruns of such favorites as LUM AND ABNER, THE SHADOW, GREEN HORNET and others is the daytime offering. The station, WPMH (1010) went on the air Jan 9. Initial public response has been encouraging...Virgil James, mentioned above, writes of 2 companies to be wary of in ordering shows. One is Nostalgia in Miami, Fla that I mentioned earlier. The other is Old Radio Tapes, North Bergen, NJ. Does anyone know anything about this outfit...John Schlamp, 320 South Dr, Paramus, NJ 07652. John has 300 shows and is very interested in the HIT PARADE...At John Dunning's suggestion I will make a list of collectors, grouped by size of collection. Group A: collectors with several thousand who have just about everything and will trade only for something new and unusual; Group B: 2000 shows and up who trade more actively, either looking for all shows of good quality or certain programs; Group C: 750-2000 who are actively building their collection; Group D: less than 750 who have started recently or trade at a much slower pace; Group E: those that sell at reasonable prices. Those on the list should represent his shows on his catalogs best as possible and make good dubs. Ratings should be clear. I'll make such a list if I get enough names. Include the group you are in also...Ross Leslie, RR4, Warkworth, Ontario, Canada is looking for CLYDE BEATTY sponsored by Kelloggs.

WHAT'S ALL FOR NOW. Write if you get work, hang by your thumbs.... Jay Hickerson, 6 Koczak Ct, North Haven, Conn 06473 (203) 239-5251 \$3.50